Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of synthesizing of a speech signal, comprising:

assigning ~~of~~ a first identifier to ~~a first class of~~ steady intervals of an original speech signal and assigning ~~of~~ a second identifier to ~~a second class of~~ dynamic intervals of the original speech signal,

windowing the original speech signal to provide a number of pitch bells,

processing the pitch bells having the first identifier assigned thereto for modifying a duration of the speech signal, and

performing an overlap and add operation on the processed pitch bells.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising a first code or a second code being used as the first identifier, the first code being indicative of an unvoiced interval and the second code being indicative of a voiced interval.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, whereby a third code, a fourth code, a fifth code or a sixth code is used as the second identifier, the third code being indicative of an unvoiced interval being essential for the intelligibility of the speech signal, the fourth code being indicative of a voiced interval being essential for the intelligibility of the speech signal, and the fifth code being indicative of an unvoiced interval not being essential for the intelligibility of the speech signal and the sixth code being indicative of a voiced interval not being essential for the intelligibility of the speech signal.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 whereby pitch bells being assigned to the ~~fifth or~~ sixth code are deleted optionally.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 whereby a raised cosine is used for windowing of the speech signal.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, a sine window being used for windowing of steady, unvoiced intervals of the speech signal.

9. (Previously Presented) The methods of claim 1 further comprising randomizing the pitch bells of steady, unvoiced periods before performing the overlap and add operation.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, whereby the windowing is performed by means of a window positioned synchronously with a fundamental frequency of the speech signal.

11. (Currently Amended) Computer program product, such as a digital storage medium, the computer program product comprising program means for performing the following processing steps for the modification of a duration of an original speech signal:

    assigning ~~of~~ a first identifier to ~~a first class of~~ <u>steady</u> intervals of an original speech signal and assigning ~~of~~ a second identifier to ~~a second class of~~ <u>dynamic</u> intervals of the original speech signal,

    windowing the original speech signal to provide a number of pitch bells,

    processing the pitch bells having the first identifier assigned thereto for modifying a duration of the speech signal, <u>and</u>

    performing an overlap and add operation on the processed pitch bells.

12. (Currently Amended) Computer system, in particular text-to-speech system, comprising:

means (302) for storing ~~of~~ a speech signal,

means (304) for storing ~~of~~ first identifiers being assigned to ~~a first class of~~ steady intervals of an original speech signal and for storing ~~of a~~ second identifiers being assigned to ~~a second class of~~ dynamic intervals of the original speech signal,

means (306) for windowing the speech signal to provide a number of pitch bells,

means (308) for processing the pitch bells having the first identifier assigned thereto for modifying a duration of the speech signal, and

means (310) for performing an overlap and add operation on the processed pitch bells.

13-14 (Cancelled)

4